

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 722

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor Senator Andy Berke for his meritorious service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost probity and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Andy Berke is one such estimable person who has served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction as a senate member of the 105th, 106th, and 107th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Andy Berke has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of the 10th Senatorial District, who have evinced their firm confidence in Senator Berke's abilities as a legislator; and

WHEREAS, a dignified man who greatly values civil discourse, Senator Berke's legislative tenure reflects statesmanship of the highest order. He has consistently benefitted debate and negotiation and contributed mightily to the best outcomes on a multitude of bills and resolutions traversing the legislative process in committee rooms and on the floor of the revered upper chamber; and

WHEREAS, he has astutely served as Vice Chair and Secretary of the Senate Democratic Caucus, as Secretary of the Senate Education Committee, and as a member of the Senate Transportation and Safety Committee. Senator Berke is a commissioner on the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and a board member of the State Workforce Development Board; and

WHEREAS, a dynamic attorney who maintains an active practice in Chattanooga along side of his father and his uncle, Senator Berke was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1994. His

remarkable legal knowledge and litigation skills have served him well during his legislative career, earning him the respect and admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle; and

WHEREAS, well educated and learned, Senator Berke graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors, after which time he worked on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., with United States Congressman Bart Gordon of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of a legal profession, Senator Berke earned a Juris Doctorate with Honors from the University of Chicago and then worked as a law clerk for Judge Deanell Tacha of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Judicial Circuit in Denver, Colorado. During this time, he also taught as an adjunct professor of law at Kansas University Law School; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his legal license to practice law in Tennessee, Senator Berke has also been admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Tennessee, the U.S. Court of Appeals 6th and 10th Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, active in several professional organizations, Senator Berke is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, past President of the Chattanooga Trial Lawyers Association and a former member of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association Board of Governors. He is a local chapter charter member of the Inns of Court, a founding member of the Chattanooga Pro Bono Association, and a member of the Supreme Court Task Force on Alternative Dispute Resolution; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of his exemplary public service, in 2010, Senator Berke was honored as the Outstanding Senator of the Year by the County Officials Association of Tennessee. He received the Tennessee Conservation Voters' Good Green Deeds Award, and in 2010, he was named the Southeast Tennessee Development District's Legislator of the Year. He has participated in the State Legislative Leaders Foundation's Emerging Leaders Program at the Darden School at the University of Virginia Business School and the American Council on Germany's International Young Leaders Program; and

WHEREAS, within his community, Senator Berke serves as a board member for the Siskin Children's Institute, the local public television station, WTCI, Goodwill Industries of Chattanooga, and the Chattanooga Nature Center. He is also active in the Parent Teacher Association at Normal Park Museum Magnet School, has worked on the Superintendent's

Parent Advisory Committee, and has volunteered at the Children's Advocacy Center, the Creative Discovery Museum, and with Allied Arts of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, having accomplished much as both a lawyer and public servant, Senator Berke treasures most the familial love, affection, and support of his wife, Monique, and their daughters, Hannah and Orly, above all else; and

WHEREAS, though brief in its span of time, Senator Berke's legislative tenure has been marked by his vigor and determination for the good of the people and the process, and for that this body and the constituents of Hamilton and Marion counties should be thankful and deeply appreciative; and

WHEREAS, Senator Andy Berke is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized for his sterling service to this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Senator Andy Berke for his meritorious service to the good people of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service to the citizens of the 10th Senatorial District, and extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.